

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY S/S-O:R.ELTZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 138991

EXDIS

TOSEC 98

FOLLOWING SENT SECSTATE WASHDC INFO CAIRO BRUSSELS WHITE
HOUSE FROM KHARTOUM 27 JUN 74:

QUOTE S E C R E T KHARTOUM 1552

EXDIS

DEPT PASS SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PINS PFOR SU EG

SUBJ: BSO TERRORISTS RELEASE: SUDANESE-EGYPTIAN CONSULTATIONS

REF: STATE 138514

1. EMBASSY HAS RELIABLE REPORT THAT GOS MINISTER FOR
EGYPTIAN AFFAIRS, SALAH ABDEL AAL MABROUK, APPARENTLY
JUNE 23 MADE QUICK, AND TO DATE UNPUBLICIZED, TRIP TO CAIRO
AND BACK. PRUPOSE OF TRIP WAS TO INFORM AND DISCUSS WITH
SADAT NIMEIRI'S DECISION TO RELEASE EIGHT BSO ASSASSINS. AS
REPORTED TO US, SADAT WELCOMED DECISION. HE REPORTELY

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FELT THIS ACTION PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT IN TERMS TAKING

POTENTIAL ISSUE AWAY FROM QADHAFI. SADAT REPORTEDLY TOLD MABROUK THAT HE (SADAT) BELIEVES THAT EFFORTS TO EXPLOIT PALESTINIAN ISSUE -- PARTICULARLY IN TERMS ENCOURAGING POSSIBLE ACTS OF VIOLENCE -- IS ONE OF LAST CARDS AVAILABLE TO QADHAFI AS HE SEEKS UNDERCUT MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENTS. BY RELEASING BSO TERRORISTS, SUDAN WOULD CLEARLY REMOVE MAJOR TARGET FOR SUCH PALESTINIAN ACTION AND GO LONG WAY TOWARDS NEUTRALIZING EVEN THAT LAST CARD. SADAT, MOREOVER, REPORTEDLY UNDERTOOK TO SEEK MOLLIFY USG SHOULD WASHINGTON REACTION TO RELEASE BE SHARP. HE IN EFFECT REPORTED TO HAVE SAID, "LET ME WORRY ABOUT THAT PROBLEM".

2. COMMENT: WE NOTE FROM REFTEL THAT EGYPTIANS HAVE INDEED APPROACHED US REGARDING TERRORISTS' RELEASE. SINCE WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED CAIRO 4577, WE DO NOT KNOW IF OUR VERSION OF EVENTS FITS WITH GOE PRESENTATION MADE IN CAIRO TO AMBASSADOR EILTS NOR CAN WE COMMENT ON DISCREPANCIES WHICH MIGHT EXIST. BUT AS SEEN FROM HERE, REPORT AS WE HAVE IT APPEARS PLAUSIBLE. AND IN FACT, PRESIDENT NIMEIRI IN HIS MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR (KHARTOUM 1538) ALLUDED SAME POINT REPORTEDLY MADE BY SADAT RE SIGNIFICANCE DEFUSING PALESTINIAN ISSUE. WHETHER GOS PUT TO MUCH STOCK IN EGYPTIAN ABILITY TO TAKE CARE OF ANTICIPATED STRAIN IN GOS-USG RELATIONS IS, OF COURSE, ANOTHER QUESTION. SANDERSON UNQUOTE SISCO

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